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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 16 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Asian Group, I have the honour to write to you to draw your attention to an issue of great importance to our members. This relates to the situation of the underrepresentation of the Asian Group at the various bodies of the United Nations.

The 54 members of the Asian Group make up 28.13 per cent of the 192 members of the United Nations, yet in numerous instances, we are allocated a disproportionately low number of seats in the various United Nations bodies. The Asian Group firmly believes that the composition of the United Nations bodies should be based on the principle of "equitable geographical distribution", where each regional group in the United Nations is allocated the number of seats that correctly reflects their respective share of United Nations membership.

To illustrate our predicament, I have the honour to transmit herewith a chart indicating the percentages of the seats assigned to the Asian Group's membership in various bodies of the United Nations (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could circulate the preset letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118. It is the Asian Group's intention to take up this matter when the item is next considered by the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Hardeep Singh **Puri**

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Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Distribution of seats among regional groups

	Total	*African States*	*Asian States*[a]	*Eastern European States*	*Latin American and Caribbean States*	*Western European and Other States*
Number of States Members of the United Nations	**192**[b]	**53 (27.60%)**	**54 (28.13%)**	**23 (11.98%)**	**33 (17.19%)**	**29 (15.10%)**
Population[c]	**6 322 578 222**	**965 588 975 (15.27%)**	**3 713 889 731 (58.74%)**	**336 861 878 (5.33%)**	**454 720 244 (7.19%)**	**851 517 394 (13.47%)**
Economic and Social Council	54	14 (25.90%)	**11 (20.40%)**	6 (11.10%)	10 (18.50%)	13 (24.10%)
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	16	3 (18.75%)	**4 (25.00%)**	2 (12.50%)	3 (18.75%)	4 (25.00%)
International Civil Service Commission	15	4 (26.67%)	**3 (20.00%)**	2 (13.33%)	2 (13.33%)	4 (26.67%)
Human Rights Council	47	13 (27.66%)	**13 (27.66%)**	6 (12.77%)	8 (17.02%)	7 (14.89%)
International Law Commission[d]	34	8 (23.53%)	**7 (20.59%)**	4 (11.76%)	7 (20.59%)	8 (23.53%)
United Nations Environment Programme	58	16 (27.59%)	**13 (22.41%)**	6 (10.34%)	10 (17.24%)	13 (22.41%)
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	60	14 (23.33%)	**14 (23.33%)**	8 (13.33%)	10 (16.67%)	14 (23.33%)
Commission on Sustainable Development	53	13 (24.53%)	**11 (20.75%)**	6 (11.32%)	10 (18.87%)	13 (24.53%)
Commission for Social Development	46	12 (26.09%)	**10 (21.74%)**	5 (10.87%)	9 (19.57%)	10 (21.74%)
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	40	12 (30.00%)	**9 (22.50%)**	4 (10.00%)	8 (20.00%)	7 (17.50%)
Committee for Programme and Coordination	34	9 (26.47%)	**7 (20.59%)**	4 (11.76%)	7 (20.59%)	7 (20.59%)
Statistical Commission	24	5 (20.83%)	**4 (16.67%)**	4 (16.67%)	4 (16.67%)	7 (29.17%)
Commission on the Status of Women	45	13 (28.88%)	**11 (24.44%)**	4 (8.88%)	9 (20.00%)	8 (17.77%)
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	19	5 (20.31%)	**4 (21.05%)**	2 (10.52%)	4 (21.05%)	4 (21.05%)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	58	16 (27.59%)	**13 (22.41%)**	6 (10.34%)	10 (17.24%)	13 (22.41%)

[a] Turkey is included.

[b] Of the 192 States Members, Kiribati does not belong to any regional group.

[c] Source: CIA Factbook (www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html).

[d] Two rotation seats are included. In 2010, the Eastern European Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group have one rotation seat respectively.